

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 1-12.

Add the following new claim:

13. (New) A syringe comprising:

a hollow axially elongated barrel having distal and proximal ends;

a needle carrier releasably secured to said distal end of said barrel and having non-deformable exterior wall surfaces releasably securing said needle carrier along interior wall surfaces of said distal barrel end;

a hollow needle carried by said carrier and in communication with the interior of the barrel;

a plunger axially slidable in said barrel and having a thumbpress at a proximal end thereof and external to said proximal end of the barrel, said plunger including a bung adjacent an opposite end thereof and within the barrel;

an element carried by said opposite end of said plunger and engageable with a mating element carried by said needle carrier, one of said elements including a laterally projecting rib and another of said elements including a groove, said one element snapping over said another element with said rib engaging in said groove to secure the elements to one another in response to axial movement of said plunger toward said distal end of the barrel and into engagement with said carrier;

said element in engagement with said mating element carried by the needle carrier enabling detachment and removal of said needle carrier with said needle from said distal end of the barrel and withdrawal of said needle carrier and said needle into the barrel in response to axial sliding movement of the plunger away from the distal end of the barrel.